



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Child Support Services

At its meeting held June 17, 2003, the Board took the following action:

112-C

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

“In May of 2003, representatives from the Federal Office of Administration for Children and Families (ACF) visited the Los Angeles County Child Support Services Department (LA CSSD). During their visit, the ACF representatives discovered that instead of opening all applications for child support services, only those applications believed to result in successful child support collections were being opened.

“The implementation of this informal policy, which was applied to both assisted and non-assisted applications, was subsequently confirmed by a Deputy Director of LA CSSD. Moreover, LA CSSD indicated that assisted applications were likely to be lowest in priority based on the quality of information received. Among the negative impacts resulting from this practice is the issue of compliance with Federal regulations and the potential of LA CSSD failing its FFY 2003 self-assessment review.

“The ACF office in Washington, D.C. has been informed of the case-opening practices at LA CSSD and has been assured that the California Department of Child Support Services’ (DCSS) oversight of the LA CSSD will be monitored. In accordance with Federal directives and regulations, DCSS directed the LA CSSD to: 1) discontinue the informal case opening policy; 2) provide DCSS with the accurate number of backlogged applications; and, 3) a timeline to clear the backlog.

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“LA CSSD provided a proposed timeline; however, it was not approved by DCSS. Consequently, DCSS has required the LA CSSD to clear the backlog of some 14,000 to 16,000 applications by July 18, 2003.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried, the Director of Child Support Services was instructed to report back to the Board at the meeting of June 24, 2003 on the Department's informal case opening policy, which only opens those applications believed to result in successful child support collections, as discovered by the Federal Office of Administration for Children and Families during their visit in May 2003, with the report to include the following:

1. The manner in which the Director plans to meet the California Department of Child Support Services' deadline of July 18, 2003 to clear the backlog;
2. The impact on employees and Divisions as other employees are reassigned to assist in clearing the backlog;
3. The corrective action measures taken to assure that similar "informal policies" are not implemented which can jeopardize compliance with Federal and State regulations; and
4. The resulting consequences to the Department by the Federal and State government.

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